

Once again, the rooster has crowed, the computer has hummed, the chicken has cackled, and ye old editor is laying another egg. So read on for news, views, rues, and hues (well, the computer screen is blue). We'll start with the news items, resurrect some helpful hints on repair techniques, and describe the upcoming CFO contest (it's our turn to clutter up the bands for once!).

DUES!!! I got a new idea (I get one every decade or so). We get about half the recipients of a newsletter to actually send us money, and I think it's because \$3 seems like such a small amount, people just put it off. How about, send \$6 every other newsletter? I put the date of your last dues payment on the mailing label (I doubt if the postman can decipher it to see if you're a cheapskate). If it just has a question mark, I have no record of dues being paid since prior to '90. So, everybody send \$6 now, and if the label of your next newsletter indicates you sent \$6 within the last year or so, skip that year. Of course, contributions above and beyond the call of duty are always appreciated. Send dues and rooster corrections/additions to Bob Dillon, 413 LeGrande Blvd., Aurora, IL 60506-5333. My phone number is (708) 897-3341.

For you internauts (users of Internet) out there, my e-mail address is bdillon@admin.aurora.edu. Send me yours - I'll keep a list. If you're on packet, there's several packet/Internet gateways for e-mail. I've never used any, but supposedly, if you're on packet, you can send a private message to:

gate@wb9tpy.az.usa.na

and for the first line of the message, put:

Internet: bdillon@admin.aurora.edu

and I'm supposed to get it. (I'm anxious to see if that works!) Knowing that neither Internet nor packet is failsafe for e-mail, I will respond to each message I receive, so if you don't hear back in a week or so, try it again. Don't expect a reply during August, however. I'm going to be WB9LTN/KH6 (but only on 2 meters) during most of that month! (Dirty job, but somebody's gotta' do it!)

Now let's get to the news that has come in since our last newsletter! The winner of the "Fastest Turnaround" award goes to Joe W9RQO whose dues check arrived at WB9LTN's QTH on the Monday after the '93 issue of KeyClucks was mailed the previous Friday afternoon. Joe doesn't fool around.

Thanks to all the others who didn't even have their newsletter 'til after Joe's dues arrived, but who also responded promptly - received over a dozen replies during the first week - regrettably two were from XYL's of Silent Keys.

AB4KX still works each weekend and regrets missing all the action, though he plans to be QRV on weekends the day after his retirement, June 24, 2013 at 1300Z. Bryan also suggests the author of the Dark Suckers article (last newsletter) should get the "No Bell Prize".

W0NB says: If Frank would go to the keyboard, it would solve one problem: that special character I've never been able to decipher would be eliminated. [Ed. note: Well, maybe, but Frank's pretty handy with pliers - his keyboard probably sends it too!]

N9EJS has been experimenting with various antennas to improve his signal. Living in an apartment can be hard on hams.

K9AMC's mom died this spring. He and Fran are moving into her house in Lansing, IL. I hear Kris has quite an antenna farm.

The '93 issue of KeyClucks (with its mention of the 1933 World's Fair) drew a response from W8GJX (who at the time of the '93 issue was 84) that she operated the station at that fair. Helen has been a ham for 64 years and was the first YL in QCWA. Helen's 17th book (her autobiography - I Never Shot a Rabbit) is doing well.

W4COC also responded to the article on the World's Fair with a Xerox of the QSL he received from W9USA (the fair station). Tom's been a ham since 1933.

W6WQV writes that the following are active on 7033 in the mornings on the west coast: W6WQV, WA6QOX, KG7KR, W7ENG, N6HJ, and W9NAX. W6SB is one of the later risers.

Also from W6WQV: WA6QOX has recently moved to his new home in Brookings, OR, and is not yet back on the air. WA7WFB recently remarried after the death of his wife some time ago, and is now living part time in Grants Pass, OR, but still maintains his home in Ajo, AZ, as his winter headquarters. WA7VHO finally sold his home in Tensed, Idaho, and is now living out his dream of trailer life; he is presently camped in Peck, Idaho, but has not yet found room for a rig in his 35 foot fifth-wheeler.

Also from W6WQV: W7ENG (those two have known each other since their teenage days in Kansas City) is in poor health and not on the air very often.

Welcome to new member WZ0Z. Wayne is a semi driver and works /m from his truck. Wayne reports that when he told his Elmer he wanted to upgrade to general, his Elmer took his mike away. It worked!

Lyle W9FCX reported a planned trip to a sub vet convention in September of '93 and then to New Zealand. Lyle had quite an encounter with a furnace in spring of '94. It exploded in his face. Reports are he is recovering satisfactorily. I expect he's getting a lot of TLC from Helen.

Another member who's had a bit of bad luck is KB0PB (no, I don't mean copying Kris' bug). Frank took the fast way off a ladder and damaged his driveway. Worse yet, he damaged his shoulder pretty severely. Lucky he has N1KKI to provide sympathy.

Welcome to new member KA9ZAP. Art is 50 years old and a ham since '89. He's already an extra class. He was a truck driver for 20 years hauling rocks and bulk cement. Before a back injury took him out of the truck, he did work some /m cw. Art operates some AM phone with a Johnson TX and Hammerlund RX to remind himself what he missed in the fifties! Art started studying for his ham license as a teen, but got sidetracked by a '53 Olds 88. Art also enjoys machining for racers, motorcycles, etc.

Welcome to Lloyd K9KY. Lloyd is 60 years old, married to Dorothy for 41 years, and has two sons, one of whom is an inactive ham. Lloyd and Dorothy's black cat Pogo loves to listen to cw and has completely taken over the lounge chair. [Wonder if that cat likes chicken cluckin.] Lloyd also enjoys camping and setting up flea markets. Lloyd is legally blind, but manages to do everything but read or drive. Dorothy reports that Lloyd is stubborn, and refused to take his extra class test as a handicapped person. Instead, he managed to take it with a large magnifying glass. Congrats, Lloyd.

WB9AOX reports he has been working a group of OT's for 20 years at 5:00 a.m. central time on 3.669.

K9VP flies a jump plane for a jumper's club in Muncie and another one in Richmond, IN.

N4EE reports he now has a left-handed bug! [Mine is just left-footed - Ed.]

This was supposed to be in the last issue, but gremlins got it. ZL1AN is the writer of "The Morseman" column in the New Zealand ham journal Break-In. He spent some time in Ann Arbor in the spring of '93, and got acquainted with Jesse W8MCP. Gary is a professor in the physics department at the University of Auckland, specializing in underwater acoustics and signal processing.

N4KQX sent an article on bug adjustment from QST February 1968. Great article; starts on page 60. If you don't have QST from that far back, contact me or Otis for a copy. I'm sure an SASE would be appreciated (preferably business size).

W5GRJ reports he published an article in the July '67 QST on the W0EPV Squeeze Keyer. Jimmy says "I take a vow that I learned to key Ed's contraption at 30 WPM, with no errors, KEYING WITH MY TOES!" [I think I see the makings of a contest here. No, no, not for the biggest story, for the best QLF op.! - Ed.]

AA0HW is a chiropractor in St. Louis. He's been a ham since 1991 and copies 75 wpm [! - Ed]. He's been having his cw program send passages from the Bible in cw, and hopes to reach 100 wpm and copy the whole Bible in cw. [Ur 599 - Comin' in on a dit and a prayer - Ed.]

W8KJP is in Korea on an extended stay working for the government. He is now HL9DC and reports working 14030 and 21030 between 09Z and 14Z. Del, we miss you on bug net! Incidentally, Del is 56, retired from the Navy. Del is a speed key enthusiast and always looking for telegraph items. He says, "Ship them... I rarely quibble over prices asked."

AE8G sent a news release on the West Palm Beach Hamfest and their cw contest. In '93, this was held in October; check QST and go show off your skills if you're in that area!

Had a nice letter from NR9J with a copy of his article from the April '74 QST on the sideswiper. I gotta' tell a story about that! I got my ticket in Feb. '73, and the first issue of QST I read was April '73. I just sorta' passed over the article on using ditches filled with water as beam reflector elements until the replies in the June issue clued me in it had been an April Fool's article. Well, I wasn't going to be fooled in '74! I found this article on something called a "sideswiper", and laughed my way through it, fully convinced no one in his right mind would actually use a gadget like that! Then I found an article on using the plate of an 807 as an antenna, and concluded this year QST had included two April Fool's articles. I mentioned this to someone at the local club, and was quickly informed that sideswipers did indeed really exist! After reading John's article again, I see it actually was tongue-in-cheek after all! Wonder if Ev Gibbs, W8AQ, is still around; Ev had one of the best sideswiper fists I ever heard.

Back to NR9J. John has been licensed since '36 and used a sideswiper until he could afford a Vibroplex. John has spent his career as an E.E. in a variety of high-tech jobs, and now lives in Milwaukee. He had the good sense to marry a gal who's father was a ham back in the 20's and 30's, and who was the trustee of the U. of Ill. club station W9YH. Welcome to CFO, John.

W4LDF sent in some extra money with his dues to get Andy F3NB back on the roster. Now that's an interesting idea. Anybody else got DX friends they want to cover? Ed would also like to know which chickens can send (and hopefully receive) landline morse. So far, he knows of W8AU, N9EJS, and K0ERX. Ed's wondering if we could indicate those kind of folks in the rooster some way. [A tip of the hat to those who know code that's not binary!]

AA8BW sent some biographical data: Jack was born in '23, has been married 48 years, has 4 kids and 7 grandkids. He served 4 years as a radio op in the navy during WW2. He didn't get into ham radio 'til '83. Welcome to CFO, Jack.

W4OSU retired four years ago from TenTec after 17 years. Tom is trying to become the 64 million dollar man -- he recently had a new ball and socket installed; when do you get the bionic fist, Tom?

K4KP has a vertical antenna that's from the USS Fresno; it has battle scars from attacks from the Japanese fleet in WW2. Now that's a historic antenna!

K8KEM has been on vacation in FL recently - well deserved after he attended advanced electronic school in Baltimore to qualify as a Radio Electronics Officer, a new category of upgraded Radio Officer. Dave will be going back to sea later this summer.

W4GOG is now home after 3 1/2 months at sea. Ray was a sparks on a tanker that hauled jet fuel and gasoline between Texas City and Haifa, Israel with a detour to NYC and Marseilles, France. Daily skeds were held with WS9D, K9AMC, AK4G, W5SKD, N9EJS, N4WCO, N4EE, KB0PB, W4LZL, W3HUV/mm, and N3KW/mm. In all the time at sea, only 4 days were missed, two due to DX tests, and 2 due to condx. Ray may be returning to sea in the fall. (Tnx Kirby, for the previous two vignettes.)

Welcome to NV1B. Drew is 26, and employed at the University of Pennsylvania as an engineer in a computer communications lab. Drew credits W4SON with getting him interested in serious QRQ cw.

If anyone has not received a CFO certificate, let WB9LTN know. It's possible a few folks slipped through the cracks.

KB0PB wants to know if "Now I want to say my best of seventy threes" translates as "Best of best best regards." Frank also isn't real fond of the cw op who enjoys his keyboard so much he has to type "Now back to you" instead of just "K". And of course, says Frank, there's always the op who sends "OK on your name; OK on your QTH, OK on" even after a 599 report and RRR at the beginning of the transmission.

NETS!!! We now got three of 'em (NTS, eat your heart out). The bug net meets on 3537 on Wednesday at 01Z (7037 at 00Z in summer; don't forget, that's Tuesday night local time - but you knew that). The yodel net meets on 7237 on Saturday at 15Z (14Z in summer). And a new CFO net has been started on Thursday night which meets the same time as bug net, but currently a bit down the band (7035 in July) to avoid some QRM at 7037. Hunt around a bit, and you should be able to find it.

SILENT KEYS: K4JVT, N4VB, AF4W, W4WU, W0HKE. W8PM's wife died in May of '93.

N4VB (listed above in silent keys) is one of only two hams to have made every cluck-in.

Lost chickens: N1EA, K2TNO, W2YW, K3KD, NB3R, KA6NSF, KK9R. Let me know if you find any of 'em.

Interesting quote in Popular Mechanics for March, 1949: "Although a calculator on ENIAC [the first electronic computer] contained 18,000 vacuum tubes and weighs 30 tons, computers of the future may use only 1000 vacuum tubes and weigh only 1 1/2 tons." [Now that's a big laptop!]

This guy goes in for a physical. Doc asks him how old he is. He says 65. Doc says he needs some family history and asks the guy how his father died. The guys says, "Did I say my Father died? He's 86 and doing well." The Doc says, "Well, how did your grandfather die?" The guy says, "Did I say my grandfather died? He's 107 and getting married this weekend." The Doc says, "Why would a 107 year old man want to get married?" The guy says, "Did I say he wanted to get married?"

What do you get when you cross a crooked politician with a crooked lawyer? Chelsea

HOW TO REPAIR AN AILING TENTEC
by W9TO (plagiarized from an old Key Clucks)

- Step 1: Approach the rig in a confident manner. This will give the rig the idea you know something. It will also impress anyone who happens to be watching should the rig suddenly start working and you will be credited with its repair. If this fails to work, proceed to step 2.
- Step 2: Wave the service manual at the rig. This will convince it you are familiar with the source of knowledge. Should this fail, try step 3.
- Step 3: In a **FORCEFUL MANNER**, recite Ohm's Law. This will prove beyond all doubt that you are indeed a serious person and not one to be trifled with. If this fails, attempt step 4.
- Step 4: Jar the rig slightly. This may require a three to six foot drop onto a concrete floor. While jarring is an almost CFO approved method, care must be exercised not to mar the floor. This drastic step may fail, so try step 5.
- Step 5: Brandish a screwdriver in a menacing manner. This will frighten the rig and demonstrate your familiarity with the dread short circuit technique. Should this fail, proceed to step 6.
- Step 6: Add a tube...even if the rig is solid state. This will show the rig you are familiar with its design and will confuse it, adding to your advantage. If this last step should fail, proceed to step 7.
- Step 7: Send it back to the factory.
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CONTEST!!! CONTEST!!! CONTEST!!! CONTEST!!! CONTEST!!! CONTEST!!! CFO IS GOING TO HAVE A CONTEST! IT'S CALLED

HOBBIES HOBBIES HOBBIES

Rules:

- 1) Period: October 1, 1994 'til October 30, 1994 (UTC)
- 2) Bands: All cw bands (see rule 5c for exception)
- 3) Work: Anybody and everybody one time only
- 4) Exchange: Hobbies
- 5) Scoring:
 - a) Basic score: 2 points for CFO members
 1 point for non-members
 - b) Add-ons: 1 point for each hobby you report (maximum: 5 points total)
 1 point for each hobby you receive from the other station (maximum: 5 points total)
- c) Nets: Contacts on nets are not allowed; however, you may count each check-in to the CFO bug net, the CFO Thursday net, and/or the CFO Yodel net as 1 point (no points for hobbies or other stations in the net).
- 6) Duplicates: (Exception to rule 3) Although you may only work each station once, if you report or receive additional hobbies (not included in previous QSOs) on one or more subsequent contacts with a station, you may add them to the original QSO up to the maximum of 5 reported and 5 received
- 7) Definition: The definition of "hobby" is being left vague. Your primary means of earning income may qualify as a hobby if you like your work (if you hate your job, it doesn't count). Any means of producing income that brings in over a million a year is not a hobby. (Special note to Stan: a hobby that has the potential of producing a million a year may be counted!)
- 8) Logs: Report the date and time of each QSO, and list each hobby you reported, and each hobby you received, and the total points you are claiming for the QSO. Include sage comments on your experiences for inclusion in the next Key-Clucks
- 9) Reports: Send logs with a cover sheet indicating your total points to Kirby Strickland WS9D. Kirby will be cross checking your logs with those of other stations sent in with a fine-tooth comb (the one Kris gave him when Kris stopped using a comb). Kirby's address is 407 Watseka St., Park Forest, IL 60466.
- 10) Awards: Results will be announced in Key-Clucks, and a certificate may be awarded. (Maybe Kris's comb will be sent to the highest scorer).

K9AMC sent in the following examination for all you Ph.D. types to complete. Send your answers to Kris; there will be a prize for the highest score.

BASIC ELECTRICAL EXAM

TRUE-FALSE SECTION:

1. A keyless fixture cannot be unlocked.
2. When hooking up a 200 volt heater, you must use 240 volt wire.
3. Electricity will leak out of pipes if they are not connected with rain tight fittings.
4. When dealing with conduit, the O.D. must exceed the I.D., or the hole will be on the outside.
5. A circuit breaker reads "20" on the handle. This means it can only trip twenty times before it is worn out.
6. If you plug something 110 volts into a 120 volt outlet, 10 volts will leak out and make a mess.
7. When pulling two 4/0 wires into a 1/2" PVC conduit, the "PVC" stands for "Pipe Very Crowded."
8. A flush mount device may only be hooked up to a toilet.
9. Service entrance conductors purchased from an electrical supply house with current already in them are very dangerous to install.
10. High voltage wire is used in the upper levels of tall buildings, whereas low voltage wire is usually found in basements or underground.
11. If you have a molded case circuit breaker, the mold can be washed off with warm soapy water.
12. The reason for covering the ends of cut wires is to prevent voltage drops.
13. A locknut results when you grab a hot conductor.
14. A ground screw can be identified by grass stains.
15. Burned out light bulbs must be left in the socket until replaced to prevent leakage.
16. Ground Fault Interrupters are required in California to shut off the electricity in case of an earthquake.
17. Electric meters use the Metric system to measure electricity.
18. H.U.D. requires mobile homes to be supplied by feeders so the low-income people that own them won't go hungry.
19. A bonding screw may be used to nullify a pre-nuptial agreement.
20. The neutral must float in a mobile home because it may be located in an area subject to flooding.
21. Article 424, Space Heating Equipment, was written to cover the Space Shuttle and solar panels.
22. Fixture whips may be used to control stray voltages.
23. Mogul based lampholders were invented in Asia.
24. Buck and Boost Transformers are primarily used by Rodeos.
25. Light track comes in O, HO, and N gauge, depending on the engine size.
26. Cable Trays are used in Gasoline Dispensing and Service Stations.
27. Double Locknuts will make you walk bent over.
28. Light bulbs are brighter than fluorescent tubes because the electrons are bunched instead of stretched out.

ESSAY and SHORT ANSWER SECTION:

29. What color is a ground screw (don't peek at question 14).
 30. Electrical inspectors are also known as _____ of _____.
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Sure thought Tonya Harding could have picked better music for her olympic performance. I sorta' thought "If I Had a Hammer" would have been appropriate.

Had a Bobbitt snowstorm here late last season. That's one that leaves six inches on the ground.

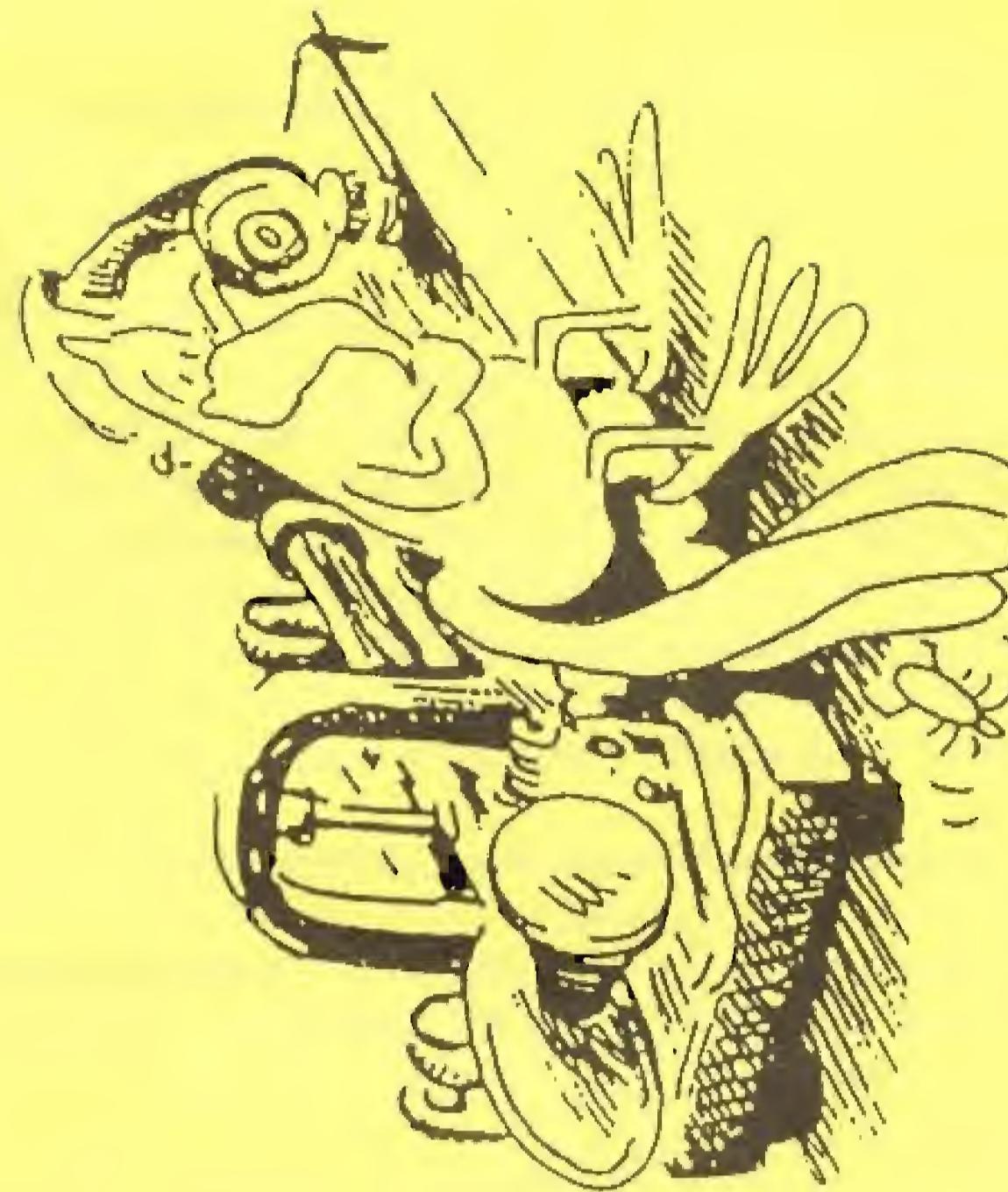
As I mentioned earlier, I've been exploring the Internet lately. There's some discussion groups on ham radio on there that are pretty interesting. Someone asked what the rest of the phrase "Bens Best Bend ..." is, and got a reply that bug ops used to warm up with the little exercise "Ben's Best Bent Wire." Try it; it sings on a bug! Someone else started a thread titles "You know it's time to retire from ham radio when" My favorite is "You know it's time to retire from ham radio when your wife points out that all your children were born during sunspot minimums!"

Looks like that's it for another issue. I'd like to thank all those who sent contributions for the newsletter. Keep that good stuff coming; maybe we'll get out the next issue during the winter. Hope you enjoyed at least some of this material, and I'll be watching the mail for your dues. See you on the good mode!!

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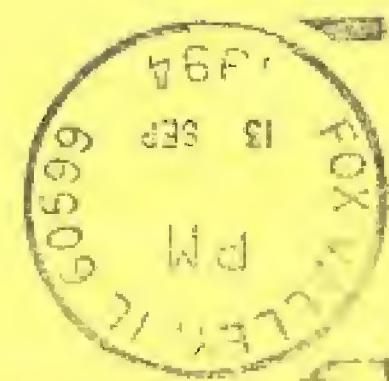
Key Clucks



Summer 1994

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